Lord Brahma Steals the Calves and Boys

by the Vaikuntha Players, from krsna Book Chapter 13

Narrator: Lord Brahma was watching it from afar,
How Aghasura was killed by Krsna Kaumara,
Although the boys were five years old
They were six before the tale was told.

A whole year passed mysteriously
Before the boys went home to their mother's knee.
When they set out in the morning they were five
But they were six before evening did arrive.
For Brahma stole them away for a moment
Of his time, but a whole year was spent.

Krsna took the boys where the Yamuna flows
To take some lunch where the long grass grows.
He is so kind, as everyone knows
He began to address them all as follows:

Krsna: This spot is nice for lunching
And playing in the soft, white sand.
See the blowing lotus flowers
Distribute their flavor all around.

The birds are chirping, the peacocks eeeooo
Making sound vibrations echo.
The leaves are whispering in the breeze
Enhancing the look of the beautiful trees.

Since it's already late,
I think it's time that we all ate.
Let the calves drink water and let them go
Graze where the softest grasses grow.

Narrator: Hearing this, the boys all became very glad,
"Let's sit down here and take lunch," they said.

1st Boy: Oh yes, I am so hungry!

2nd Boy: Let's sit down here and feast!

Narrator: Setting loose the calves, they sat down on the ground

With Krsna in the center and the boys grouped around.
They opened the lunch-boxes they had brought from home
And with their eyes on Krsna, they began eating some.

Krsna and the boys looked like a lotus flower
Spread out there in the forest bower.
They all engaged in the eternal pursuit
Of relating to the Absolute.

While exchanging joking words,
Krsna filled His hand with curd,
Butter, fruit salad and rice,
Through His petal-like fingers it looked so nice.

When they saw the boys' great happiness
Even the demigods were impressed.
Meanwhile, the calves that had been nearby
Allured by grass, had gone away
And the cowherd boys began to cry.

Boys: Krsna! Krsna! Krsna!

Krsna: You boys stay here on the lawn
I'll personally see where the calves have gone.

Narrator: Krsna was not able to find them
Though he actually should have been right behind them
And while he was absent
Lord Brahma became a bit impudent.

He heard that the Cowherd Boy was the Lord
But he wanted to test Him a little more.
His mystic power he did display
And stole the boys and calves away.

Krsna: I know now what Lord Brahma has done
He has stolen the calves and everyone!
Leaving Me here in the forest alone
With no calves and boys, how can I go home?

All the mothers will be aggrieved
But I have something up my sleeve!
I will not go home empty-handed.

And, saying this, the Lord expanded
Lord Brahma could not understand how
Lord Krsna expanded as boys and cows.
But we know that whatever we see
Is simply an extension of Krsna's energy.

The cowbells rang as the merry band
Set out for home across the sand,
Lord Krsna, the all-pervasive Self
Surrounded by expansions of Himself.

They arrived home by the usual route,
And Their mothers heard the sound of the flute.
(Sound effects of cowbells and cows mooing)

Mothers: They are home at last and must be needing
To come in the house and have Their feeding.

Narrator: With tender smiles and joking words
They fed the Expansions of the Lord
And Krsna allowed them to think it
That their own sons were the ones to drink it.

Nor had the bond between the cow and calves ceased,
All their affection had greatly increased
Because all living entities naturally
Love Krsna more than their own family.

One day, Krsna and His Brother
Were watching the calves, helping one another
When They saw some transcendental fun
The big cows all began to run
From the top of the hill of Govardhana
(sound effects are louder)
Down the rough path to the pasturing ground.

And as they were coming down the hill
They raised their tails and their bags poured milk
They came running in all directions
Out of intense maternal affection

For the Expansions of Krsna in the form of calves
Who were standing there eating the grass.
Baffled and angry, the cowherd men
Came down to try and catch them again.

1st Gopa: I don't understand what's got into those cows!
I've never seen them act like this before!

2nd Gopa: Those ornery critters are out of control!

3rd Gopa: Well, men, what do you propose?
We'll have to separate them, I suppose.

1st Gopa: I wish we knew how it could be done.
Oh look! There's my little son!
Five years old - he is beautiful,
Intelligent, sweet and dutiful.

2nd Gopa: When I hear the sound of my son□s voice
The sweet tone makes my heart rejoice.

3rd Gopa: Having nice children in good health
Is our real happiness and our wealth.

Narrator: The cowherd men took Them in their arms
And began to appreciate the charms
Of their children.
They began to adore
The cowherd boys as never before.

Finally, the cowherd men
Took their cows up the hill again.
And as they thought of their little sons
Tears fell from their eyes, one by one.

Lord Balarama saw all this going on
And guessed that the boys were Krsna's Expansions.

Balarama: This was arranged by Krsna somehow!

Even I could not check the mystic power.
Dear Krsna, what did You do?
All these Boys are e Expansions of You!

Where have the other calves and boys gone?
Can You kindly tell Me what is going on?

Narrator: Krsna explained the whole situation
How the calves and the boys were His creation
And Lord Brahma, out of a kind of fear
Looked down after a second, which was one earth year.

Brahma: All the calves and boys were stolen by me
Yet they are playing with Krsna, how can it be?

Narrator: The power of Lord Brahma seemed like the glitter of snow
Or in the darkest night, a glow-worm's glow.
By trying to show his potency
He showed what an insignificant soul was he!

Krsna, just to show what He could do
Turned all the calves and boys into Lord Vishnu
With four hands and of the color blue
Holding club and lotus and conch shell
And disc, and with ankle bells
Covered with flowers and earrings and pearls
They were the most beautiful forms in the three worlds.

And as Lord Brahma in wonder was glancing
He saw all the souls in the world were dancing.

Brahma: This is beyond the scope of a demigod.
Krsna must actually be God!
We all dance like puppets in Krsna's hands
And do whatever the Lord commands.

Although this certainly has baffled me
It also makes me feel ecstasy.
The jivas are dancing faster and faster
We are the servants and He is the Master.

My head is whirling, my mind is vexed,

I am becoming more perplexed.

Narrator: Seeing Lord Brahma practically crying
Krsna pulled over His curtain of Yogamaya
For by the use of His energy
Krsna allowed us to see or not to see.

Brahma: I can open my eyes with difficulty
And see lovely Vrndavan filled with trees
Here is a place where the soul is freed
From all trace of lust and greed.

Before me, standing on the sand
Is Krsna with a morsel of food in His hand.
He's searching for His calves and friends
Just as He was doing a year ago.

Narrator: Lord Brahma got down from His carrier swan
And fell down flat before Krsna upon the ground.
Before the Supreme Personality of God
He fell down flat like a golden rod

All his four helmets touched Krsna's lotus feet
And tearfully he began to repeat
The wonderful activities of the Lord
And he rose and fell with the joyful words.

After many obeisances he began to rise
And smeared his hands over his eyes
And began to pray to Krsna tearfully
With great respect and humility,

When he had finished the last sloka
He returned to his home in Brahmaloka.

Krsna had left all His friends for a moment
Although a year had come and went.
He made them forget all the strange events
And continue in their merriment!

1st Boy: Here is Krsna, back already!
Without us He is not very steady.
He misses our fine company

And cannot bear to be absent from me!

2nd Boy: My dear Krsna, back so soon?
Now it is almost noon.
We must all eat together
And bask in the sunny, Autumn weather.

Krsna: These boys do not know
That Lord Brahma stole them all away
And hid them in a cave for play.
They think that this is the same day
But a whole year has passed away.

Well, let's finish our lunch
And then we can roam
Over the forest trails
And back to home.

1st Boy: Oh, there's the Aghasura demon
You killed this morning with terrible screaming!

2nd Boy: Krsna is the most beautiful altogether
In His helmet, He wears a peacock feather.
He is decorated with different forest flowers
And various colored minerals.

1st Boy: Let's sing about Krsna as we enter the town
And all of our mothers will crowd around.

2nd Boy: Although we were almost swallowed
Up by a serpent, Krsna followed
And killed the great Aghasura demon,
Who died with a suffocating screaming.

3rd Boy: Krsna is so wonderful that he killed him
And all the prophecies - He fulfilled them
Of His glories we sing more and more
The cowherd whom the gopis adore.